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## Short Tribute

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would be alright. After all, chickens were raised in a special way for such consumption in Japan, where they were a delicacy. But I doubt that the chicken we ate that night in Kansyana camp was raised in the same way in Kasiha village!



In the end, ours was a remarkable friendship. Those were in fact his last words to me in an email message he sent before he passed away. I wasn't aware at the time that this would be our last communication. Toshi was always quite stoic and never let on how much he must have been suffering, at least to me. I will remember his strength of character and the strength of our friendship, built on trust and mutual respect and admiration. I miss him greatly.

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## A Memory of Toshisada Nishida

*Craig Stanford*

*University of Southern California, USA*

I first met Toshisada Nishida in October 1991, when I visited him at his research camp in Mahale National Park. We had corresponded for some months and although I was relatively new in the chimpanzee research world, he graciously invited me to spend a week with him on a holiday from fieldwork at Gombe. To get to know him in the field and to tag along on his daily follows of the Mahale chimpanzees, with the team of assistants and students he had trained over the years, was truly awe-inspiring. One memorable wet day we sat watching the chimps doing a rain dance in a downpour so heavy I thought surely the hillside on which we sat would surely be washed away. Only when Dr. Nishida decided the weather would not allow further observations—by now streams of flood water were racing around our legs—did we return to camp. I learned that beyond his primatological wisdom, he knew which mushrooms were delicious and which were poisonous, and which fish from Lake Tanganyika made the best *sushi*.

Although I touched base with Dr. Nishida at the IPS Congress in Kyoto in 2010, not knowing he was ill at the time, my last vivid memory of him and his impact on our field is his retirement banquet and lecture, held in Kyoto in 2004. I was lucky enough to be among the group of foreign chimp-ologists invited to attend. We were treated royally. The highlight was observing the honorifics bestowed upon Dr. Nishida by so many hundreds of his aca-

demic peers.

The world has lost one of the greatest primatologists in the history of our discipline. We must be grateful for his enormous contributions and for the legacy he leaves to future generations of both Japanese and western students of animal behavior.

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## In Back of Nishida-san

*Hiroshi Ihobe*

*Sugiyama Jogakuen University, Japan*

I am writing this tribute at Mahale. I first came here nine years ago in 1995 and stayed with Nishida-san for several months. I was fortunate to have been able to conduct research at field sites with three famous Japanese fieldworkers. When I was an undergraduate student, I followed Itani-san to Kuchinoshima Island in Japan to study feral cattle. As a graduate student, I went to Wamba in the former Zaire and walked with Kano-san in the forests there to study pygmy chimpanzees. And I spent time with Nishida-san at Mahale. Each field worker has his style. Itani-san wrote "*Haiku*" in the field and showed it to me while observing cattle. Kano-san did not speak to me often, and I only followed him from behind as we walked in the forest. Nishida-san recorded how chimpanzee foods tasted by eating them. I think Itani-san and Kano-san were generalists and Nishida-san was a specialist. Nishida-san's interest was focused entirely on chimpanzees. He seemed to try to understand the environment through the eyes of the chimpanzees. All three fieldworkers, however, have common features. They did not teach me many things directly. Instead, I learned the way to conduct fieldwork by following them in the field. While following them, I observed their manners and experienced how to carry out fieldwork successfully. While I followed Nishida-san, I came to learn many important things about Mahale. His death has left a deep hole and is a big loss for Japanese primatology. I wish I could follow him from behind to Mahale once more because I still have to learn many things about there and about fieldwork. This, however, is an impossible dream for now. I can honor his soul by working hard to emulate him in the field, but it is too hard to equal him when it comes to fieldwork.

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## Short Tribute

*Miho Nakamura*

*ANC Productions Inc./Kyoto University, Japan*

Remember, he was speaking fast about the classification of Hominidae in the first class of primatology, I was just 20 years old then. Remember, he took a picture of a Japanese macaque showing threat while I was provoking the female, then I realized how much I get excited in the field. Remember, we climbed a cliff of the Mahale mountains only to discover a breathtaking view. We couldn't catch up the chimpanzees but he looked happy and satisfied with the view. Dr. Nishida, always young in spirit, loves to visit a new place as well as deepening his scientific knowledge.



## Nkungwe as Majestic as in the Pioneering Days

*Kazuhiko Hosaka*

*Kamakura Women's University, Japan*

Time flies like an arrow. Twenty years have passed since I first stepped on the soil at Mahale. It was Nishida-san that introduced me to the wonderful world of chimpanzees.

My life as a chimpanzee researcher started the first ten days during which I followed Nishida-san closely. After finishing this apprenticeship, I began to observe my focal animals by myself, although we often tracked the chimpanzees together because both he and I followed the adult males who tended to be in close vicinity to each other.



I was inhibited and always nervous in front of my great supervisor, who was much older than me. Moreover, he spoke so fast that I could hardly understand him during conversations. However, once I became absorbed in the intriguing social relationships between males, he began to behave like a bug-hunting companion, instead of my advisor. For example, one day, we observed three adult males walking in single file, emitting a pant-hoot in chorus. Just after they called, they froze in unison with their legs lifted as if this had all been prearranged. They seemed to be listening to distant replies to their call. Nishida-san looked back at me, pointing to the frozen chimpanzees as if to say, "Look! How funny!" I remember his smile to this day and occasionally laugh about this event even now.

At that time, Mahale M-group chimpanzees were in the midst of a historic change. Ntologi, the famous alpha male had been overthrown. Kalunde, who led the coup, successfully ostracized Ntologi and maintained his new alpha status by manipulating the triangular relationships with the other two high-ranking males, Shike, the beta male, and Nsaba, the gamma male. The three were allies and rivals with each other.

However, the situation changed soon after Nishida-san left for Japan. Shike got seriously ill and disappeared, which meant that the stable triangle collapsed. Kalunde came to face frequent harassment by Nsaba, who was 10 years younger than him. Kalunde became so overwhelmed that he began to travel alone. But three weeks later, Kalunde displayed an act of behavioral flexibility that characterizes chimpanzees. Kalunde came back to the group with Ntologi, who he himself had ostracized. Ntologi regained the alpha position, with support from Kalunde. Nsaba could not challenge them as Kalunde and Ntologi formed the strongest alliance ever at Mahale. In the end, Nsaba had to settle for life as the beta male.

This series of events coincided with the disintegration of the Soviet Union. I described them in several letters that I sent to Nishida-san because I knew that he longed to hear about what was happening at Mahale. I also wanted to show him that I was carefully recording these historic events. Each time he received my letter, he responded very quickly to express his excitement. When I phoned him just after I returned to Japan, he said to me, "Thank you for your letters. I enjoyed them very much." Then, he paused for about three seconds and added, "*Yoku dekimashita!* (Very good!)" using a conventional praise for Japanese elementary school children. We met at Ochonomizu Station and he took me to a tempura restaurant. He treated me to *Ebitendon*, a bowl of rice topped with tempura prawns, his favorite dish.

In February 2007, two months after Nishida-san underwent an operation for rectal cancer, I met with him at the office of ANC Productions in Tokyo. I was asked to assist him and to help prepare his presentation. While we watched videos taken from 1989 to 1995, he reminisced about those times and said, "I enjoyed that time at Mahale the most." The chimpanzees of M-group were very well habituated, and there weren't many tourists. Under such good conditions, we could observe the political interactions between the adult males. I agreed with him and thought that I was very lucky to have accompanied him in those days.

In August 2009, Nishida-san visited Mahale after a two year absence. We departed from Japan together and stayed in Mahale for about two weeks. I had a feeling that this would be his last journey to Mahale. However, he was never sentimental but enjoyed his trip as usual.

For a couple of days after he reached Mahale, he tired easily. "I am tired," he said even after a 2 km trek from the Kanyana Research Station to the Ntale valley. But his strength improved each day. On the tenth day of his stay, he easily reached the Lubulungu, 4 km south of Kanyana, to observe chimpanzees cross the river to the south.

His main focus of study during this trip was play behavior of immature chimpanzees, but he enjoyed observing all aspects of chimpanzees and was curious as ever. In his last contribution to this newsletter, he reported "Puffy (nine year old female) showed 'nipple press' (one of the novel behaviors recorded in the 1990s) just as Alofu,